
THE ACTS CHURCH 2:42
"EXPERIENCE REAL CHURCH"

August 11, 2013

TEXT: *2 Peter 3:1-9 KJV*

This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: (2) That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: (3) Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, (4) And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. (5) For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: (6) Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: (7) But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. (8) But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. (9) The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

INTRO: *Scoffers in the Last Days*

Where is the promise of his coming?
all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation
they are ignorant of:

- that ***by the word of God*** the heavens were of old
- the world that then was, being overflowed with water, ***perished***
- the ***heavens*** and the ***earth***, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, ***reserved unto fire against the day of judgment*** and perdition of ungodly men
- that ***one day*** is with the Lord as a ***thousand years***,
- The Lord is not slack concerning his promise

(2) That ye may be mindful of the words which were ***spoken*** before ***by the holy prophets***, and of the commandment ***of us the apostles*** of the Lord and Saviour: (3) Knowing this first, that ***there shall come in the last days scoffers***

Why Hasn't Jesus Come Back Yet?

It has been around 2,000 years since Jesus left earth, and many wonder why he has taken so long to return. In his book, ***Why I Am Not a Christian***, **atheist Bertrand Russell** accused Jesus of breaking his promise to return.[1] So is it possible that Russell is right, and Jesus did break his promise?

Scriptural Nonsense: By J. M. Green

Why Jesus Is Running Late On His Return Trip To Planet Earth

Nearly two thousand years ago, Christians were faced with a problem. Their beloved Jesus had said things indicating that he would return within their lifetime and set up his earthly. The apostles also taught with Paul even denigrating marriage because the end was so near. The trouble was that with each year that passed, just like *Lindsay Lohan* with a court date - Jesus was a no-show. As history has shown with apocalyptic cults and numerous failed Rapture predictions, most believers don't lose faith when the return of Jesus fails to occur – they just find a way to rationalize, and push it into the nebulous future.

Black Nonbelievers, Inc. *Walking by Sight, NOT Faith!*

Jesus' Failed Prophecy About His Return

The fact that Christianity started as a Jewish apocalyptic movement is evidenced by the teachings of the Biblical Jesus concerning the end of days. Not only did he preach he would rise from the grave, but that he would also ascend to the Heaven and one day return to judge and rule over the world. When did Jesus say his return would be? While he said no one, including himself, knew the exact time of his return, he knew it would be before the end of his generation.

Obviously, no divine final judgment and end of days has occurred. Jesus isn't sitting on some throne somewhere on Earth ruling over the planet. His first century followers had to find a way to make sense of the predicament of having devoted their lives to a prophecy that seemed to have failed.

I. The LORD Is Not Slack

2 Peter 3:9 KJV

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, ***not willing that any should perish***, but that all should come to repentance.

Luke 19:10 KJV

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

John 3:14-18 KJV

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: (15) That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. (16) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (17) For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (18) He that believeth on him is not condemned: but ***he that believeth not is condemned already***, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Hebrews 9:27-28 KJV

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: (28) So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

II. Like A Thief in the Night

2 Peter 3:10 KJV

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-10 KJV

But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ***ye*** have no need that I write unto ***you***. (2) For ***yourselves*** know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. (3) For when ***they*** shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon ***them***, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. (4) But ***ye***, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake ***you*** as a thief. (5) ***Ye*** are all the children of light, and the children of the day: ***we*** are not of the night, nor of darkness. (6) Therefore let ***us*** not sleep, as do ***others***; but let ***us*** watch and be sober. (7) For ***they*** that sleep sleep in the night; and ***they*** that be drunken are drunken in the night. (8) But let ***us***, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. (9) For ***God*** hath not appointed ***us*** to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our ***Lord Jesus Christ***, (10) ***Who*** died for ***us***, that, whether ***we*** wake or sleep, ***we*** should live together with ***him***.

III. *Looking For and Hasting*

2 Peter 3:11-13 KJV

Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, (12) ***Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God***, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? (13) Nevertheless we, according to his promise, ***look for new heavens and a new earth***, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

If the Garden of Eden and this whole universal system was God's Six Day Creation which was created by, for and through Jesus Christ according to Colossians 1:16... Then what should we expect Jesus has prepared for us during these last 2000 years?

John 14:1-3 KJV

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. (2) In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would

have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

IV. *BEWARE, LEST YOU FALL FROM STEADFASTNESS*

2 Peter 3:14-18 KJV

Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, ***be diligent*** that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. (15) And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; (16) As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. (17) Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, ***beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness***. (18) But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

STEADFASTNESS

STEADFASTNESS, STEDFASTNESS, N.

1. FIRMNESS OF STANDING; FIXEDNESS IN PLACE.

2. FIRMNESS OF MIND OR PURPOSE; FIXEDNESS IN PRINCIPLE; CONSTANCY; RESOLUTION; AS THE STEDFASTNESS OF FAITH. HE ADHERED TO HIS OPINIONS WITH STEADFASTNESS.